Jon Thomas Rowland

They'd sucked the British Empire till it fell off and now they were giving Uncle Sammy the treatment....

Or was it vice versa?

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A Vinylphile confessed to feeling guilty because he'd stolen a few pieces of sheet music along with his records. The long-lost sketches of Mahler's Tenth!

It would have been bad dharma not to offer him something. He'd come back as an unbreakable 78 and get turned into a flying saucer. He promised as soon as he found a few more records (to steal), to give him a butterscotch.

Johnny started to bring in the things from the sidewalk right in front of the store. The Vinylphile looked through the stacks of records that cluttered the aisle and covered any floor space not already occupied by junky furniture. Half an hour later Johnny had brought in most of the things, but the Vinylphile was still looking. With about thirty albums under his arm he started to make his way slowly toward the front of the store. Johnny was relieved that he was finally going, but when the Vinylphile saw him still working, he headed back into the store, where the records were thickest.

Nothing back here? he asked. Johnny said he wouldn't say that.

Nothing in the way of records? Johnny knew there were thousands. He was beginning